

Accepted Customs and Standards for Bird Frightening Devices Within Commercial Vineyards

The standards listed below define what are the "accepted customs and standards" as described in the county's Right-to-Farm Ordinance. When responding to complaints the Agricultural Commissioner's Office will use these standards to determine whether the propane cannons and electronic sound devices are used according to proper and accepted customs and standards.

The Department of Agriculture continues to emphasize education and cooperation in promoting the Right-to-Farm Ordinance to the agricultural community and general public. The standards balance the need by growers to manage bird pests while minimizing the impact of these devices to residential neighbors. The standards are as follows:

1. Propane cannons and electronic sound devices are to be used only for starling species of bird pests.
2. Propane cannons and electronic sound devices are to be used when starlings are present and damage is expected. Devices are to be turned off when starlings are not present or threatening.
3. Propane cannons and electronic sound devices are to be used with on-site monitoring and in conjunction with other bird control techniques.
4. Noise devices are to be used only during daylight hours.
5. The minimum frequency interval for each propane cannon is three minutes. For sites with more than one cannon the minimum frequency is 5 minutes.
6. When there are residences in close proximity to the vineyard, propane cannons and electronic sound devices are to be positioned a minimum of **500 feet*** (line of sight) from residence(s) with the cannon barrel or speaker box pointed away from the residence(s).

*May be reduced to a minimum of three hundred (300) feet with the addition of hay bale screening.

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